

Daily Eagle

A SNAKE CHARMER.

A DISGUSTING EXHIBITION GIVEN BY A COLORED PERFORMER.

A Sight Which Sent Cold Chills to the Hearts of All the Spectators—A Box of Hideous Reptiles Under Wonderful Control.

"You'll breed the chills! Come along with me!"

The remark needed no peremptory tone to enforce obedience. To one who has seen a real live, genuine Arkansas chile in operation the suggestion alone is sufficient. So down came a pair of feet from their elevated place above the head of the owner, the pipe was pocketed, and the morning sun bath on the piazza was abandoned. Pleasant as they are sun baths in this state breed chills, and once bred heaven guard the possessor! Much might be said of them. They stand without a rival; long ago they reached the scene of chills. The bottom lands of other sections may do their best, may toil and strive and rack their victims as they will, but when it comes right down to shaking marrow out of bones, loosening teeth and nails, and then calmly introducing a fever beside which the interior of a coke oven seems Siberia—why, then, Arkansas chills have a walk-over for the Derby. No sun baths here.

"Let us go and see the snake charmer," said the native. "Arkansas produces the snakes, Mississippi the negro."

No need to question the first statement. If there is any species of snake not common in Arkansas he is to be heard from. They are everywhere, of all kinds and sizes, of all degrees of venom. In the bayous they may be seen anywhere by hundreds and thousands. On the prairie they lurk under every shrub and bush. In the forests they are numberless. Not a mile from here in a little pony bayou, may be seen enough snakes any day to stock all the museums in the country, with a few car loads over for export. It is not considered much of a place for snakes, either, but a fairly good fishing ground, where catfish reach a five-pound notch, and game fish are occasionally taken. When the long-legged native, however, spoke of a colored snake-charmer, this was something worth looking into.

A DRAMATIC EFFECT.

Not having any acquaintance with the blacks of Mississippi I could not question his word, but that any negro would handle a snake seemed incredible. Arkansas blacks will kill them—if their poles are long enough. But to touch one—never. To produce a dramatic effect in a crowd of blacks, young or old, male or female, introduce ever so small a snake unexpectedly. There will be one wild whoop, eyes will bulge out in terror, jaws will fall like a trap door, there will be a vision of vanishing legs and ankles—then the experimenter is sadly up to investigate the "Mississippi charmer." The wonder proved a reality. He was leaning against the lee of a drug store, surrounded by a circle of the curious, both black and white. He was nearly full bloated, tall and angular. His jeans were worn and decidedly dirty. On his head was a torn and much-faded felt hat, relic of the storms and sunshine of many seasons. His movements were awkward, and altogether he would be thought the last individual on earth to rival the fabulous snake charmers of the east. Yet, standing there in the sunshine, he gave such an exhibition as sent cold chills to the hearts of all the spectators. To a white man, not having an inherent horror of snakes—if there be such a one—his final act was sufficient to make the flesh creep. Evidently he was no Arkansas native. Those who were about him preserved a respectful distance.

Stepping over a small box on the ground at his side the disreputable-looking charmer raised the lid and exposed his collection. There were three black snakes of the species found in Pennsylvania, each some three feet in length; one king snake, a mottled green serpent nearly as large, and a snake known here as the water rattlesnake, of dark brown color and perhaps eighteen inches in length. This snake is said by the blacks to be very poisonous. However that may be, it was enough for all purposes. When the lid was raised there were exposed no stupid, half-awake, inert serpents. Five heads shot into view, five forked tongues darted out, and there was a falling back of the crowd. Slowly one of the black snakes raised himself out of the box and glistled gracefully away on the ground.

"Heah yo!" spoke the charmer. "War you goin'! Yo' done git back yer to dis chile." UNDER PERFECT CONTROL. At this word the snake stopped, wheeled around, approached his captor and coiled up his leg and about his body. The other snakes, excepting the smallest, came out of the box at the word and followed the first. All over his body they went, their eyes flashing, their tongues darting back and forth continuously. They twined about his neck, rested on his shoulders, lunged about his arms, and but for erect heads and constantly playing tongues seemed perfectly at home. One by one they would be put on the ground and start away only to stop at the word. Hung over the box they would maintain one position until told to move. They seemed under perfect control and for nearly half an hour entertained and horrified the rapidly growing circle of spectators. Then the Mississippi jett away the big fellows and took out the water rattlesnake. It was his final act. There were no words of introduction, no mumbling invocations or notices that at the conclusion of the entertainment the hat would be passed. He talked to the snakes as he might to children, petting and abusing.

The new snake was a decidedly lively one, a foot and a half long, as said, and of good thickness. It was as wide awake as any of its predecessors—more vicious in appearance, if anything. It did all that they did, then coiled on the fellow's shoulder. He took it in his hands, and—Great Scott!—deliberately crowded it into his mouth. It was a capacious mouth. By the side of it even Billy Kersand's pride would be thrown into shadow. The lips closed, and the ungainly black apparently masticated the serpent, while the crowd stood awed by disgust and horror. Slowly his lips opened, as when one exhales the smoke of a choice cigar. Quick as a flash the snake's head shot out, its tongue a darting flame, its eyes gleaming wickedly. It gradually pushed its body into sight, slipping down on the black's shoulder, and coiled as if to strike; then, at the word, returned to the box. The effect of such an unnatural exhibition was startling in the extreme—revolting beyond description.

"I solemnly swear," said an Indiana gentleman, as he turned away, "if I had a gun I'd shoot that negro in a second." "It takes a Mississippi negro to do the like of that," calmly observed the native, as he shield a dime into the battered hat, now in active circulation. "Fo' God," exclaimed the charmer, when a question was raised as to the venomous character of the last snake, "yo' go fetch yo' dawg, yo' uns. I let um bite, an' ef dat ver dawg ben't plumb stun ded in a hour, I gives yo' dis yer box o' sarpents, I does." As to the secret of training the snakes—and well trained they were—the Mississippi man was obstinately dumb. And no dog being brought, he went his way.—Brinkley (Ark.) Cor. Atlanta Constitution.

The Railroads in Alsace-Lorraine.

On the Alsace-Lorraine railways, worked by the state, it appears that the daily work of locomotive drivers varies from four to five hours on fast trains to ten hours on freight trains. The drivers have every fourth or fifth, or at the least every seventh day for rest.—Foreign Letter.

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Corner Douglas and Lawrence Avenues.

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Paid-Up Capital, - - - 76,000

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DO A GENERAL BANKING, COLLECTING AND BROKERAGE BUSINESS

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Largest Paid-Up Capital of any Bank in the State of Kansas.

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Surplus, - - - \$5,000

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NATIONAL BANK OF THE REPUBLIC, New York. NATIONAL BANK OF AMERICA, Chicago. FIRST NATIONAL BANK, Kansas City. BLACKSTONE NATIONAL BANK, Boston.

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Dealers in

Ladies, Gents and Childrens Boots, Shoes, Rubbers, Slippers,

Just received a full and complete stock from the factories. Everything new and fresh. No old stock. Ladies and Gents fine hand made shoes a specialty. Call and get the prices, which are lower than any others in the market for the best goods.

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NEW AND FIRST-CLASS IN APPOINTMENTS. THE MOST CENTRALLY LOCATED, 160 FEET WEST OF GARDEN CITY, - - - KANSAS.

Charges Reasonable.

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This Addition is located in the north part of the city, between Fairview and Arkansas Avenues and is in the highest part of city. We offer Special Inducements for the next 30 days. No. 201, S-E CORNER DOUGLAS AVENUE AND MARKET ST.

Comanche, Comanche County, Kansas.

A new city on the Cimarron, at its junction with Big Bluff and Cavalry creeks, offers more inducements to the investor than any other new town platted in Kansas this year. Only three miles from the great natural salt deposit; a fine water power at the foot of Cavalry Valley, with its hundreds of fine farms, many under cultivation. A chance to get in now on the ground floor. No lots given away. Many brick and frame buildings going up. Write for full particulars to the

COMANCHE TOWN COMPANY,

New Kiowa, Kansas.

A N N E S S (A New Town),

Located on the Leroy & Western Railroad, an extension of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad, in Erie township, Sedgwick county, Kansas, owned by the Arkansas Valley Town Company.

PRICES LOW AND TERMS EASY. TWELVE MILES FROM ANY Railroad Town, in a well settled and improved farming community, insuring good support from the start. Call on or write me at once and secure choice of lots. G. A. HATFIELD, General Agent, Wichita, Kan.

The Oldest and Largest House in the City.

ALDRICH & BROWN,

Wholesale and Retail Druggists,

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SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, DRUGGISTS' SUNDRIES, FANCY GOODS, ETC.

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Improved and Unimproved City Property on the best improved streets in the city. Lots on the inside on street car lines and in outside additions. Suburban lots on the east side in Maple Grove addition.

Business lots and business blocks for sale at special bargains. Several fine tracts near the city for sub-dividing and plating.

Improved farms and grass lands in all parts of the county; also ranches in this and adjoining counties.

All parties wishing to buy would do well to call and examine my list before buying elsewhere.

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The Oldest Real Estate Agency in Wichita.

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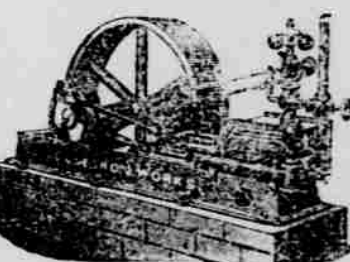
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YARD AND OFFICE—On Water Street, between Douglas Avenue and First Street.

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Town-Site Company,

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Have for sale, on line of WICHITA & COLORADO RAILROAD north-west of Wichita, town lots at new towns of

MAIZE, 9 Miles from WICHITA.

COLWICH, 14 " WICHITA.

ANDALE, 20 WICHITA.

MT HOPE, 26 "

HAVEN, 33 1/2 "

Trains are now running regularly on Railroad from Wichita to Haven.

These towns are in the best portion of

Sedgwick County, Kansas.

Maps of Towns and Prices can be had as hereinafter set forth:

At Wichita, call on N. F. Niederlander or Kos Harris;

At Maize, call on H. F. Rhodes;

At Colwich, call on Geo. W. Steenrod;

At Andale, Call on J. W. Dale.

T. H. Randall and W. S. Mackie, for Mt. Hope lots.

At Haven, Call on Ash & Charles.

THE "EAGLE CO." HAVE ALSO FOR SALE LOTS IN

"Junction Town Company" Addition to Wichita.

This Addition is at junction of Ft. Scott and W. & C. Railroads one-half mile west of Bridge on Big Arkansas river, and are very desirable lots. Street cars will be in operation, connecting this Addition with the east side of the river in 1886.

Price List of this Addition can be seen by calling on:

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